Relief to Farmers under Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme

4812. SHRI DWARKA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether farmers in Assam are getting relief much less than Rs. 10,000/- prescribed for their land mortgage loan under the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief Scheme, 1990 and it varies from person to person;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to implement the above policy uniformally throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (c). Government of India formulated the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme, 1990 for providing debt relief to farmers and landless cultivators and artisans for the loans taken by them from the public sector commercial banks and regional rural banks. In so far as the banks in the cooperative sector are concerned, State Governments were requested to frame Schemes on similar pattern. Accordingly, the State Government, including the State of Assam, also formulated debt relief schemes for the benefit of the borrowers in the cooperative sector on the lines of the Central Scheme. The Scheme has been uniformally implemented throughout the country. According to the Scheme the relief available to a borrower is subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000/- per borrower. The amount of debt relief provided by the banks will vary from borrower to borrower depending on the overdues against each borrower in his account as on 2.10.1989.

Import of Ayurvedic Medicines

4813. DR. R. MALLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government or any private firms are importing Ayurvedic Medicines (finished or raw products); and

(b) if so, the details of the products imported during the last three years and the expenditure incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b). Import of Ayurvedic Medicines (finished or raw products) is allowed under Open General licence subject to the conditions laid down. As per the latest data available, the import of Ayurvedic and Unani Medicines during 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89 was of the order of Rs. 2.28 lakhs, Rs. 26.62 lakhs and Rs. 41.42 lakhs respectively. Statistics of item-wise imports are not maintained importer category-wise.

Aircraft Body Cladding Factory at Kuarmunda Orissa

4814. KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a defence aircraft body cladding factory at Kuarmunda in the Sundargarh district, Orissa.

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Need for establishing such a factory has not arisen so far.